



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

*48 Devonshire Road ☐ Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 ☐ (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689*

April 3, 2013

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you of a scheduled commercial white sturgeon gillnet fishery in Willapa Bay. The fishery will begin 12:01 a.m. April 8 and continue through 11:59 p.m. April 30, 2013. Fishery will close earlier if sturgeon guideline is expected to be attained. Retention of all species other than white sturgeon is prohibited. Area, gear, and other requirements are provided on the back of this notice.

**Fishers are REQUIRED to report encounters of green sturgeon.** The date and number of green sturgeon encountered can be reported to the buyer or directly to WDFW through the Quick Report system. Wholesale dealer should use the "buyer only" portion of the fish ticket (list the number of green sturgeon encountered and in the pounds/price columns, label as 'encountered'). Encounters must be reported with each day's Quick Reporting. Direct reporting by fishers shall include name of the fisher and vessel #, date, catch area, and number of green sturgeon encountered.

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that "Quick Reporting" of catches is **required** for all sturgeon landed; this includes all "take home". All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.** A copy of the "Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet" can be downloaded on our website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/>

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. To view a copy of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for this fishery you can go to our website at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/netting\\_schedules.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/netting_schedules.html). For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

Encounters of sturgeon with tags of any sort should also be reported. If tags from legally retained white sturgeon can be removed before sale, please mail them to the address at the top of the page. **DO NOT REMOVE** tags from sturgeon not legal to retain, if any information from can be retrieved please do so and submit that information to the quick report system.

### **Atlantic Salmon**

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.

## Summary of 2013 Willapa Bay spring commercial white sturgeon gillnet fishery

### Date and Time:

- 12:01 a.m. Monday, April 8, 2013 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, 2013
- *Fishery will close earlier if sturgeon guideline is expected to be attained*

### Area:

- **2M, 2N, 2R, 2T** (easterly of a line from Leadbetter Point approx. 46° 38' 12" N, 123° 3' 31" W to Toke Pt. approx. 46° 42' 26" N, 123° 58' 00" W), and **2U**

### Miscellaneous requirements and gear restrictions:

- **Notice of intent** to participate in this fishery is **REQUIRED** by 10am, April 8th, 2013 (use quick reporting phone, fax or email) if you intend to fish at any point during this fishery
- Drift gill net gear only. It is unlawful to use set net gear.
- 9-inch minimum mesh
- All fishers **MUST** carry an on-board observer, if requested by WDFW
- **RETENTION OF ALL SPECIES OTHER THAN WHITE STURGEON IS PROHIBITED.** All Chinook, non-legal sturgeon, all steelhead and green sturgeon must be handled with care to minimize injury and released immediately to the river/bay
- **Slot size limit;** 43-54 inches fork length measured with the fish on its side
- Quick Reporting required via
  - Fax 360-249-1229; or
  - Telephone 1-866-791-1280; or
  - E-mail [harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)
- **All Fishers are REQUIRED** to report ALL encounters of green sturgeon (Your name, Date of encounter, and number encountered) to either phone number or email below. **Wholesale Dealer** may use the 'buyer only' portion of fish tickets and must include their reporting of encounters with each day's Quick Report.
- Retrieve any information from spaghetti tags near dorsal fin on Green or White Sturgeon. For White Sturgeon if you can remove tag before sale, please mail to address below. **For Green Sturgeon do NOT remove tags.**